to the notice of the Indian Mission in May, 1997. After the intervention of the Mission, the boy was repatriated. Thereafter, no such case has come to our notice.

Exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh

1941. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian enclaves situated in Bangladesh and *vice-versa*;

(b) whether it is a fact that Governments of both the countries have agreed to exchange the enclaves;

(c) if so, the number of enclaves exchanged, so far;

(d) what steps are being taken to complete the exchange; and

(e) the reasons for not completion of exchange work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India.

(b) Yes Sir, both the Governments have agreed to the exchange of enclaves in the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) signed in 1974.

(c) Exchange of enclaves has not yet started.

(d) and (e) At the Foreign Secretary-level talks in December, 2000, it was decided to set up two Joint Boundary Working Groups, to address the pending matters relating to the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. The Groups were constituted in June 2001. Two meetings of the Groups took place on 2-4th July 2001 in Dhaka and 26-27th March 2002 in New Delhi. We requested for a joint survey of the enclaves since the Land Boundary Agreement envisages that the people in the areas to be transferred will be given a choice of citizenship. A joint survey to identify the residents of these enclaves who may exercise this choice would facilitate the orderly exchange of enclaves. The Bangladesh position was that all necessary procedures for the exchange of enclaves had been completed in accordance with the Land Boundary Agreement and that there was no constitutional or legal barrier to the exchange. The Bangladesh side considered conducting

census in the enclaves extraneous to the provisions of the Land Boundary Agreement; they maintained that survey/census was not a pre-condition to the exchange of enclaves.

However during the Foreign Office Consultations held in April 2003, Bangladesh side agreed for a joint census and survey provided they were carried out within a reasonable time frame. In July 2005, we have conveyed to the Government of Bangladesh that the total number of mandays required to complete the job was 1600 with 13 teams to be deployed for completion of the survey of enclaves on both sides. During the Foreign Office Consultations held in June 2005, it was decided to resume the meetings of the Joint Working Groups (JBWG) to address the boundary-related issues including exchange of enclaves. We have requested the Bangladeshi side to convey its earliest convenience for the meeting.

Repatriation of Indians in Pakistani Jails

1942. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian prisoners lodged in a Punjab Province jail in Pakistan threatened to go on a hunger strike till death to protest the delay in their repatriation despite the completion of their prison terms recently.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken up by Government with regard to repatriation of the Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails after completion of their terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports emanating from Pakistani media regarding some Indian prisoners in Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore threatening to go on hunger strike. These reports falsely allege that the repatriation is held up due to delay in confirmation of their nationality by Government of India. We have already confirmed the nationality of Indian prisoners in Lahore jail and they are awaiting Pakistan Government's approval for repatriation to India.

(c) Government has been consistently taking up the matter of repatriation of Indians in Pakistani jails through diplomatic channels, both in Islamabad and New Delhi, and during high level contacts from time to time.